

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 AID-05 CCO-00 FBOE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NIC-01 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-05 OPR-02

PA-02 USSS-00 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 SCSE-00 OMB-01 SS-15

SY-05 PC-05 USIA-15 SSO-00 /092 W
----- 060100

P 142105Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1038

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMCONSUL CALI

UNCLAS MEDELLIN 0084

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS

SUBJ: PUBLIC SERVICES RATE INCREASES CAUSE

CIVIL DISTURBANCES IN ANTIOQUIA WITH MORE INCIDENTS EXPECTED

1. OVER THE PAST WEEK THERE HAVE BEEN SPORADIC DISTURBANCES IN BARBOSA, ANTIOQUIA (SOME 20 MILES NORTH OF MEDELLIN) MOTIVATED BY EFFORTS OF THE PRIVATE BUS COMPANIES SERVING THAT CITY TO INCREASE THE BUS FARE FROM BARBOSA TO MEDELLIN AND VICE VERSA FROM 5 PESOS TO 7 PESOS ON SATURDAYS SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS. NO CHANGE WAS PROPOSED IN THE WEEKDAY FARE. THE NEW BUS FARES CAUSED RATHER SERIOUS DISTURBANCES IN BARBOSA ON MARCH 7 WITH 17 PERSONS REPORTED INJURED. VIOLENCE FLARED AGAIN MARCH 13 AFTER BARBOSA RESIDENTS REJECTED A COMPROMISE OFFER WHICH WOULD HAVE RAISED THE DAILY FARE BY 50 CENTAVOS TO 5.50 PESOS MON THROUGH SAT AND ROLLED BACK THE FARE FOR SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS FROM 7 TO 6 PESOS. ACCORDING TO REPORTS 50 POLICEMAN USING TEARGAS WERE REQUIRED TO RESTORE ORDER, AND THERE WERE NUMEROUS ARRESTS.

2. MEANWHILE IN MEDELLIN A DEMONSTRATION WAS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 14 TO PROTEST A RECENTLY ANNOUNCED INCREASE IN UTILITY RATES OF 40 PERCENT FOR WATER, 43 PERCENT FOR TELEPHONES AND 30 PERCENT FOR
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ELECTRICITY. THE NEW RATES WILL THEMSELVES BE SUBJECT TO PERIODIC

MINI-INCREASES, APPARENTLY INDEFINITELY. MANY OBSERVERS ANTICIPATE
A NEGATIVE AND VERY POSSIBLY VIOLENT REACTION IN MEDELLIN AND OTHER
ANTIOQUIAN CITIES (THE ENTIRE DEPARTMENT IS AFFECTED) WHEN BILLS
REFLECTING THE RATE INCREASES ARE DELIVERED TO USERS TOWARDS THE
END OF THE MONTH.
COOPER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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